

Research & Planning Bulletin

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Incarcerated Population:

Local Jails- adult offenders who are physically held in custody in a local jail for an uncertain or sentenced period of time

State Prisons- adult offenders who are physically held in custody in a state prison for a sentenced period of time more than 1 year

Federal Prisons- adult offenders who are physically held in custody in a federal prison for a sentenced period of time more than 1 year

Community Supervised Population:

Probation- offenders who are court ordered a period of correctional supervision in the community, generally as an alternative to incarceration

Parole- offenders who receive a period of conditional supervised release in the community following a prison term

The data for this report was collected from the Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jails, and National Prisoner Statistics Program.

Correctional Populations in the U.S., 2011

Research Staff: Shahzia Hashmi, Criminal Justice Analyst

In November 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released a report on the correctional populations in the United States ending in 2011. The population described in this report includes adults under the authority of probation and parole agencies and those held in local jails, federal prisons and state prisons. This report shows that by the end of 2011 there were 6.98 million offenders under some form of correctional supervision, which was a 98,900 decrease from the previous year. By the end of 2011, 1 in every 34 adults was under correctional supervision in comparison to 2007 when the rate was 1 in every 31 adult. This trend marks a consecutive decline for the past 3 years.

Incarcerated Population:

The incarcerated population included adult offenders in local jails, state prison, and federal prison. Ending in 2011, about 2,239,800 adults were incarcerated. This number is slightly down from 2,270,100 (1.3%) ending in 2010. Similar to the total incarceration rate, the rate of offenders in jail decreased 1.8% and the number of offenders in prison decreased 1.1% during the year 2011. More than half of the decrease in the total incarcerated population was attributed to the decline in offenders incarcerated in state and federal prisons. While, less than half of the decrease in this population was attributed to the decline of offenders in local jails.

Probation and Parole:

Ending in 2011, about 4,814,200 offenders were on probation or parole; about 71,300 (1.5%) fewer offenders from the previous year. While there was a decrease in the overall community supervised population, there was an increase of 1.6% offenders on parole supervision ending in 2011. During 2011, 5.5% of probationers were considered at-risk for violating their supervision which was a decline from 2010 (5.7%). In addition, 66% of probationers and 52% of parolees completed their supervision or were terminated early.

At year end 2011, the rate of offenders on probation or parole was twice as high as the rate of offenders who were incarcerated in jail or prison. In addition, the population on probation or parole was down 1.5% and the incarcerated population (jail, federal and state inmates) decreased about the same rate at 1.3%. Overall, 83% of the decline in this population was attributed to the decrease in the probation population. Highlighted in the report is the finding that the total correctional supervision rate reported at the end of 2011 was the lowest since year 2000.

State of Florida and Palm Beach County:

Similar trends have been found in the State of Florida and Palm Beach County. According to the Florida Department of Corrections, there has been a 1.5 % decrease in inmate population from 102,021 (2010-11) to 100,527 (2011-12). In Addition, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office's data shows that there was a 19 % decline in the jail population from 2757 at the end of 2010 to 2317 at the end of 2011. Overall, national and local correctional populations have decreased.

U.S. and Local Incarceration Rates

End of Year	U.S. Prisons	State Of FL Prisons	U.S. Jails	PBC Jail
2010	1,521,414	102,021	748,728	2,757
2011	1,504,150	100,527	735,601	2,317
% Decrease	-1.10%	-1.50%	-1.80%	-19%

Data Sources: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Corrections Department, Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Justice Statistics 2010-2011

U.S. Adult Correctional Population (incarcerated and Probation/Parole)



Graph shows correctional population for U.S. Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, Annual Survey of Jails, Census of Jail Inmates, and National Prison Statistics Program, 2000-2011